

seem to be a nuisance to be called on to fill in repeatedly, recurring blanks. If such persons there are, it may be proper to remind them that our Country is now being called upon to make the most massive military endeavor of its history; and that members of the medical profession are a fundamentally essential element in that effort. In hospital and insurance work, physicians make many reports. For Country and Victory, filling in several necessary biographical blanks should be no hardship, but rather a service, gladly and gratefully rendered. The Procurement and Assignment Service—which in California is represented by Harold A. Fletcher, M. D., of San Francisco (through appointment by Administrator Paul V. McNutt)—will be deeply appreciative of full cooperation.

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**CONTINUATION COURSES: ANNUAL SESSION; COUNTY SOCIETY REFRESHER CONFERENCES: AND 6TH ANNUAL SECRETARIAL CONFERENCE**

**War Conditions Emphasize the Need of Up-to-date Medical Knowledge.**—If medical continuation courses are worthy of attendance in days of peace, then in times of war participation in such work is even more desirable. At any rate, under present-day conditions, much that was accepted practice in medicine and surgery in even recent World War I, is no longer applicable.

That fateful day—December 7, 1941—has necessitated many readjustments. Radical, for example, are those transitions which have come to physicians who, on short notice, have been called from routines in civil practice, to assume careers in military environments. Less so, true, are the rearrangements for those who remain behind, but for whom different outlooks are also in order, if they would be prepared properly to cope with incidents that may take place through bombardments in a combat zone, of which the State of California is one. Modern warfare, as it is now carried on by some nations, demands alertness and preparedness for all possible accidents, no matter how remote from actual occurrence such deplorable catastrophies may at the present time appear.

It is important to look at such matters realistically: not to do so, may lay the foundation for much subsequent sorrow. Since these conditions face us, it is particularly incumbent upon members of the medical profession to fit themselves properly for different work and new duties, and be prepared for aught that may come. That is why it is desirable that knowledge on best procedures in warfare practice—either at the front or in civilian districts—should be made available to all physicians. At meetings of state and county medical societies, of hospital staffs, and even of physicians at large, who have but few, if any, group affiliations, the newer knowledge concerning treatment of burns, shock, hemorrhage, gas casualties and similar conditions must be given adequate emphasis. To proceed further with this line of thought, attention is called to the conferences noted below.

**Annual Session at Del Monte: Sunday, May 3rd, through Wednesday, May 6th, inclusive.**—The C. M. A. Committee on Scientific Work and Section Officers met in San Francisco on January 25th, and redrafted the annual session program, which had received tentative approval at a prior meeting. Those in attendance felt that present conditions pointed to the need of programs in which military medicine would be properly emphasized in general sessions, and in meetings of the scientific sections.

It was agreed there was more, rather than less need of conferences between physicians representing different areas in the State, on what are the best ways and means to meet present or future emergencies.

The C. M. A. Council, at its meeting on January 17th, also voted that the annual session should be held as previously arranged; but in the event of unforeseen military or other complications that might interfere therewith, suitable action would be taken.

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**General Arrangement of the Annual Session Program.**—The C. M. A. Committee on Scientific work agreed on the following:

On Sunday, May 3rd, will be held the preliminary or player-up gatherings of affiliated organizations: Microscopic Conference: X-ray Study Group; Clinical Cancer Symposium; Western Industrial Surgeons; California Heart Association; County Medical Society Secretaries' Conference; and Board of Councilors Meeting. Four general meetings will be arranged, in which military medicine and allied subjects will be emphasized. The meetings will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and on Tuesday afternoon. Most of the meetings of the scientific sections will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. In due course, the complete programs will appear in the Pre-Convention Bulletin forming a part of the April issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

In the Scientific Exhibit division, efforts will be made to secure—from state, county and city health departments, and from hospital staffs and affiliated organizations—displays portraying their respective methods and procedures, through which it is hoped to be prepared for any eventualities in civilian defense.

Medical Schools, hospital groups and individual physicians are invited to present exhibits on anatomic, pathologic or research work, or studies. Prize awards and certificates will be conferred for the major exhibit groups.

Medical and surgical films, as heretofore, will be presented on each of the four mornings.

All who can participate in any of the above programs are urged to communicate with the Association Secretary at 450 Sutter, San Francisco.

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**County Society Postgraduate Conferences.**—In one sense, the conferences on scientific subjects, held at the annual session, are an expression

of postgraduate, refresher course or continuation work, at which up-to-date information on recent advances in current problems or research work is given. The qualitative difference between a State Association and a County Medical Society meeting is not very great, if proper approach in program preparation is made. True, there is an audience of smaller size at the one-night county society meeting, but its purposes and objectives are the same: to wit, the presentation of medical facts of interest and value to the physicians who are present, to the end that they may more thoroughly prepare themselves to carry on, to better advantage, their daily healing-art activities.

The C. M. A. Postgraduate Committee continues to urge program committees of county societies to consider refresher courses, to be held if possible, in conjunction with adjacent county units; and designed effectively to broadcast the messages of scientific progress, and to promote fraternal relationship with near-by physicians.

In addition to the courses on pediatrics and dermatology, outlined in bulletin letters and on page 38 of the January issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, the C. M. A. Postgraduate Committee will make special effort to secure experienced guest speakers to give talks on topics concerned with war medicine and surgery.

Members of County Societies are requested to urge their officers and postgraduate committee to arrange for one or two of such gatherings. The C. M. A. Postgraduate Committee may be addressed at 450 Sutter, San Francisco.

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**Sixth Annual Conference of C. M. A. Officers and County Society Secretaries.**—On Sunday, January 18th, State Association officers and committees met in joint session with County Society secretaries. The conference was an all-day session, and was held in San Francisco, as outlined in the program which appeared in the January issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 23. On that occasion, special time was given to speakers who presented the various phases of medical preparedness, in relation to the Army, Navy, Civilian Defense, State Council of Defense and other agencies.

Of particular interest and value was the presence of Professor James Mackintosh, Chief Medical Officer in Scotland. Doctor Mackintosh holds the chair of public health at the University of Glasgow, and has been in charge of emergency medical work in Scotland. With Colonel George Baehr of Washington, D. C., chief medical officer of the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, Dr. Mackintosh flew west in order to inspect civilian defense preparations on the Pacific Coast.

Dr. Mackintosh and Major Wallace Hunt, M.C. (U. S. Public Health Service) left Seattle by plane on Saturday night, January 17th, to take part in the sixth secretarial conference on Sunday, the 18th. Professor Mackintosh gave to his audience a first-hand knowledge of experiences in England, with particular reference to steps

needed to properly care for wounded and other citizens in bombed areas. He held his audience in rapt attention.

County society officers and others who were present have no doubt carried back, to their local groups, some of the important facts brought out by guest speakers from the Army and Navy, and by others who participated in the presentation of reports and talks. It is regretted that lack of space makes impossible a printed portrayal of the interesting proceedings to members who were not present.

In a State having the great geographical domain of California, the passing years only emphasize the good of the annual get-together conference of State Association and County officers, and this year, on January 17th, the meeting proved to be of exceptional worth and value. Thanks are expressed to all who so took part.

### MEDICAL STUDENTS AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS: PRESENT STATUS AND TRENDS

#### Medical Needs of an Army of 7,000,000 Men.

—The future of medical students and medical schools is coming more and more to the front during these war emergency days. Why? Because physicians are required in larger numbers for the rapidly increasing armed forces. These needs are known to the Surgeon Generals of the Army and Navy, who bear the responsibility of providing their respective services with adequate medical personnel. It is their desire to secure the needed number of medical officers, but, at the same time, with the least possible disorganization of civil requirements.

Recent press dispatches indicate that the Army of the United States may be more than doubled or trebled, beyond its June, 1942, strength of 1,400,000 men. For example, consider the following dispatch, which is one of many that could be quoted:

"LONDON, Jan. 28.—(AP)—United States Ambassador John G. Winant told a national defense luncheon today that the United States plans to recruit an army of 7,000,000 men. . . ."

Now, an army of 7,000,000 men will need a medical personnel of some 50,000 medical officers, of whom only 5,200 are graduated in a single year, and of whom only the physically fit men would be eligible for military duty!

Under peace conditions, the yearly addition of medical graduates for civil practice was about the same number as that due to deaths and retirements from practice, and these latter will continue, even though recent graduates will not be available.

What then, is to be done under these circumstances?

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**Two National Groups Set the Standards of Medical Education.**—The two groups which exercise nominal supervision over medical schools in the United States and Canada, through an-